

have witnessed more money being kept in the taxpayers' pocketbooks and more small businesses being established due to the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. In fact, my district, which was hardest hit community after September 11, 2001, is now recovering due to accelerated depreciation and other tax incentives.

Instead of recognizing this truism, the Democrat budget will impose the largest tax increase in American history. The tax relief Americans have been enjoying would cease to exist under this legislation. The Marriage Penalty Relief would be eliminated and 23 million taxpayers would see their taxes increase by an average of \$466 in 2011. As we continue on down the list of tax hikes, 31 million taxpayers would be affected by the Child Tax Credit being cut in half. Their taxes would increase by an average of \$859 in 2011.

These tax increases are not for a greater good of reducing the deficit but to allow Democrats the freedom to spend more and expand the government. My colleagues seem to be living up to their moniker "Tax and Spend" Democrats. This budget is above and beyond the President's request and would amount to some \$22.5 billion in spending in 2008 alone for nondefense and nonemergency appropriations. The bill also does not include any meaningful entitlement reform—the most problematic detriment to our deficit.

This is not a plan for fiscal responsibility. This is a plan to spend the taxpayers' money flippantly. We need to be conscious of how the American taxpayers' money is spent. As Members of Congress we were sent here to look out for the best interests of our constituents and this budget resolution in not proving to do that.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE KRAECK FAMILY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Kraeck family for their dedication to American soldiers. They coordinated a project to donate care packages to the troops at Fort Dix before deployment and they also shipped packages to troops overseas. The packages contained valentines, supplies and snacks, as well as encouraging words from nursery, elementary and middle school students.

The Kraeck family undertook this remarkable project as a way to remind all of us, especially those deployed in a war zone, that our admiration and gratitude for our military is limitless. The broad reach of the donations prove this point.

This impressive project united hundreds of people toward a common cause: supporting our troops. With the help of students, parents, teachers and principals, as well as area librarians, businesses, newspapers and Girl Scout troops, the Kraecks tirelessly organized the collection and distribution of Girl Scout cookies, toiletries, and snacks to the soldiers. Additionally, more than 1,000 valentines, handmade by local children, were sent expressing their gratitude, esteem, and compassion for the troops.

The Kraeck family has already shipped more than 620 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and delivered supplies to Fort Dix to be distributed before deployment. They plan to continue sending even more shipments overseas in coming months and I encourage their efforts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate and thank Kathy, Emily and Alison Kraeck and all those involved in these noble efforts. On a personal note, as an Iraq war veteran, I especially appreciate the Kraeck family's work on this worthy project.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOIS AND JERRY TARKANIAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lois and Jerry Tarkanian for their commitment and dedication to the Clark County community and congratulate them on being selected by the Clark County School Board to have a new middle school named in their honor.

Lois Tarkanian has been actively involved in a number of organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Nevadans. After receiving her Bachelors of Arts in education, a Master of Arts in Speech Pathology as well as a Doctorate in leadership and human behavior, a certificate in speech pathology, language, and audiology, Lois began a long and distinguished teaching career. She wanted to give more to her community and expand her knowledge as she worked as a speech pathologist, principal, central office administrator and as a college instructor both in Nevada and California. Lois has also served as a member of the Clark County Board of School Trustees for 12 years. In addition to her commitment to enriching the lives of her students, Lois has also conducted clinical work with autistic, deaf and aphasic children. Presently, Lois serves as the Las Vegas City Councilwoman in the 1st Ward, a position she has held since 2005, she also serves on the City of Las Vegas Real Estate Committee and Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository Committee.

In addition to her professional success, Lois also has a number of philanthropic pursuits. She serves as a board member for the Catholic Charities, the Clark County Public Education Foundation, Family and Child Treatment Center for Abused Children and the Oralingua School for the Hearing Impaired. Lois has received a number of accolades as a result of her dedicated services, such as the Humanitarian of the Year by the Catholic Community Services, and the Distinguished Woman of Nevada and Citizen of the Year by the Nevada Family and Child Treatment Center.

Jerry Tarkanian played basketball for Fresno State and later earned his master's degree with honors in Educational Management. Along with his wife, they understand the importance of education and donated \$100,000 to the University of Fresno State's Madden Library and initiated the "Baskets for Books Program". In addition to his dedicated service of enriching the lives and educational experiences of students, Jerry is known for his ex-

ceptional coaching abilities. He started coaching in 1956 at San Joaquin Memorial High School. On the collegiate level, he has coached Long Beach State, Fresno State and UNLV. Jerry has spent over 38 seasons as a head coach in collegiate basketball. Not only has he taken Fresno State to NCAA Tournament appearances in 2000 and 2001, 2001 WAC title and 2002 WAC Tournament Championship, but he has lead UNLV to four NCAA Final Four appearances and a national championship in 1989–1990. In 1999, Jerry was inducted into the California Community College Sports Hall of Fame. Jerry has an exemplary coaching record, having never had a losing season. Furthermore, Jerry has had 42 of his players drafted to the NBA's with 12 first round picks.

The Tarkanians continue to support their love of education through a number of avenues, such as speaking engagements at hospitals and school rallies.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Lois and Jerry Tarkanian. Their dedication to education and the community are truly commendable and have enriched countless lives. I congratulate them on their much deserved recognition by the Clark County School District in having a school named after them. I am certain that this educational establishment will embody the education excellence that the Tarkanians have long advocated.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GULF COAST HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act (H.R. 1227). This bill is critical in providing affordable housing to low-income families affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

It is the responsibility of all national governments to prepare, plan and defend its citizens against all known and potential natural and man-made disasters. Such was the case that confronted the Bush administration in August 2005. But because of the Bush administration's lack of preparation, misplaced priorities and ineptitude, the combination of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma severely devastated the Gulf Coast to such a degree that many lives and property were lost and the effects of disrupted lives and businesses are still being felt nearly 2 years later. Frankly, the response of the administration has been unacceptably slow in the aftermath of the hurricanes and the needs of displaced residents of the Gulf Coast have been left unmet.

The Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act offers significant relief to the displaced families of the Gulf Coast. Specifically, the bill directs FEMA to be flexible in the application of its funds for the Louisiana Road Home program that provides financial incentives for people to come back and live in the State.

The bill further directs HUD and the New Orleans Public Housing Authority to engage its human and material resources to preserve the supply of affordable rental housing.

The bill incorporates an important fair housing enforcement component that makes funds

available as may be necessary to qualified private fair housing enforcement organizations to carry out the mandate of section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987. That provision authorizes the Secretary of HUD to make grants to these organizations to formulate or carry-out programs to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices, enforce the rights granted under the Civil Rights Act of 1968 or State and local laws that provide rights and remedies for alleged discriminatory housing practices. Education and outreach programs designed to inform the public concerning rights and obligations under the laws referred to by the Civil Rights Act are also allowable expenditures. We are all too familiar, sadly, with the historical exploitation of low-income populations many of whom are members of minority groups in this country. That is why this provision is so important.

This bill also recognizes the many individuals, groups and communities that offered a helping hand by assisting evacuees in the immediate aftermath of the hurricanes. It is gratifying to know that through this bill we would be fulfilling the nation's promise to crucial partners that stepped-up in times of need. This bill replenishes the CDBG funds of localities that were used to provide rental housing assistance to evacuees. It authorizes reimbursements to landlords who participated in the FEMA Section 403 program to provide emergency shelter in response to Hurricane Katrina, Rita or Wilma in spite of FEMA's subsequent reneging on its promise to provide reimbursements under this program.

This is an important piece of legislation that will help put the Gulf Coast back on a path to full recovery. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE JANUARY-MARCH, 2007

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, when you accepted the gavel, you pledged that the House under your Leadership would waste no time in addressing the pressing needs facing our nation. Your legislative initiative for the first 100 hours of the new Congress proved that you meant what you said.

In those first 100 hours, the House passed six major bills, including legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, raise the minimum wage, and help older Americans afford prescription drugs, and help their grandchildren obtain student loans. It also adopted Rules to help restore the people's trust in this Chamber.

In those hours, Madam Speaker, you showed America that you were going to waste no time in getting important things done for this country. I thank you and the Majority Leader, Mr. HOYER, for your tireless efforts.

In that spirit, I would like to call your attention the accomplishments of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which I am honored to chair.

Since the Committee held its organizational meeting January 17, our Committee has met

34 times in full or Subcommittee session. We have held 28 hearings, including two field hearings. In the first three months of 2007, we have met for nearly 80 hours, and gathered testimony from 165 witnesses. The Committee has initiated a series of hearings on reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration, which must be completed this year, and begun the hard work of considering the myriad issues of reauthorizing the highway, transit, and highway safety programs in 2009. We have begun to restore vigorous oversight to the programs, policies, and agencies in the jurisdiction of our Committee that is critical to ensuring that our transportation and infrastructure laws implemented effectively and efficiently.

The Committee has held seven markups, including three Subcommittee markups and four Full Committee markups. The Committee has acted on 29 bills, including 24 bills that have passed the House—each with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. Among the many Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure bills, the House has passed:

H.R. 720, a bill to authorize \$14 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and provide the necessary resources to help States address their critical wastewater infrastructure needs;

H.R. 569, a bill to authorize \$1.7 billion for States and communities to control combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows to address public health and safety and environmental concerns with such overflows;

H.R. 802, a bill to reduce air emissions from maritime vessels and implement Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

H.R. 1195, a bill to make technical corrections to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users; and

H.R. 798, a bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to install a photovoltaic system on the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Senate has passed four of the 24 House-passed Committee bills and the President has signed each one.

Madam Speaker, such success cannot be accomplished without incredible effort and I thank each of our Committee Members, particularly Ranking Member MICA and the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members, for their enormous bipartisan efforts to carry out the agenda of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

It also cannot be accomplished without a talented, dedicated staff, and I would like to recognize each one by name:

Staff Director David Heymsfeld, Chief Counsel Ward McCarragher, and Administrator Dara Schlieker. Also in the front office: Jimmy Miller, Sharon Barkeloo, Helena Zyblikewycz, Jennifer Walsh, Erik Hansen, Keelin Haddix, Elisa Yi, and Mike Obrock.

Our Communications staff: Jim Berard, Mary Kerr, and Julie Carpenter Lotz.

On the staff of our Subcommittee on Aviation: Stacie Soumbeniotis, Giles Giovinazzi, Jana Denning, Christa Fomarotto, and Pam Keller.

The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation: John Cullather, Richard Hiscock, Lucinda Lessley, and Ianta Summers.

The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Man-

agement: Susan Brita, Mike Herman, Elliot Doomes, and Alexis Barrios.

The Subcommittee on Highways and Transit: Jim Kolb, Art Chan, Amy Scarton, Jackie Schmitz, Kathy Dedrick, and Peter Gould.

The Oversight and Investigations staff: Trinita Brown, Clay Foushee, Leila Kahn, and Laurie Bertenthal.

The Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials: Jennifer Esposito, John Drake, Niels Knutson, Nick Martinelli, and Rose Hamlin.

The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment: Ryan Seiger, Ted Illston, Ben Webster, Beth Goldstein, Rod Hall, and Mike Brain.

The Editorial staff: Tracy Mosebey and Gilda Shirley; and our Information Systems team: Keven Sard and Scott Putz.

Madam Speaker, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a history of bipartisan cooperation, and our Committee staff on the other side of the aisle share in our success this year. I thank Chief of Staff Jim Coon, Counsel Charles Ziegler, Policy Director Fraser Verrusio, and the rest of the Minority staff for their hard work and cooperation.

The Committee has no plans to slow down. We are hopeful that the House will consider H.R. 1495, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2007", in the coming weeks. We have scheduled 11 hearings and 2 markups for late April and early May. We are just hitting stride.

Madam Speaker, in the words of Vaudeville entertainer Al Jolson, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OCIE PIGFORD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Ocie Pigford, a true legend in law enforcement, who passed away Sunday, March 11, 2007.

Ocie Pigford resided in LaVerkin, Utah, and left a lasting impression on the Las Vegas community. After serving his country in the United States Air Force, Ocie joined the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Of his many accomplishments as a member of the Metropolitan Police Department, Ocie was most famous for bringing two of the most notorious criminals to justice. In December 1959, he along with his partner, stopped and arrested Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith. They ended a six week nationwide manhunt which started in Holcomb, Kansas. After their arrest these two men were subsequently tried and convicted of killing the Clutter family. Ocie was instrumental in bringing these criminals to justice while protecting the people of Las Vegas.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Ocie Pigford. His service to his Nation and to the people of Las Vegas was commendable. He was truly a dedicated public servant who enriched countless lives in Southern Nevada. He will be profoundly missed.